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An Address agreed upon at the Committee, for the French
War, and Read in the House of Commons, April 19. 1689.

Licensed, and Entred according to Law.

W E Your Majesties most Loyal Subjects the
Commons of England in Parliament assembled,
have taken into our most serious Consideration
the Condition and State of this Nation in respect of
France, and Foreign Alliances. In order to which we have
Examined the Subjects brought upon the Freedom in late
Years by the French King, who without any respect to
Justice, has by Fraud and Force, endeavoured to subject it to
an Arbitrary and unbecoming Tyranny.

In Prosecution of this Design for pernicious to the Inter-
pose and safety of Europe, he has neglected none of those
means both indirect and direct, which his Ambition or Avarice
could suggest to him. The Treaty of Treaties among all
Princes, especially Christian Princes, ever held most inesti-
mable, has never been able to restrain him, nor the solemn
Oaths to bind him, when any Occasion presented it self
for Extending the Limits of his Kingdom, or Oppressing
those whom his Interest inclined him to Quarrel by the
Name of his Enemies, witness his haughty and ground-
less Declaration of War against the States General of the United
Provinces in the Year 1672, in which he assigned no other
Reason for disturbing that profound Peace, which through
Gods Mercy, all Europe enjoyed at that time, but his own
glory and his Ambition to punish the Dutch, for some ima-
ginary slights and differences, which he would have had the
World believe they had put upon him, whereas the true
Occasion of that War was nothing else but a former Design
laid down and set on foot by that King and his Successors,
for the subversion of the Liberties of Europe, and for
abolishing the Common-wealth of Holland, as being too
dangerous an Example of Liberty to the Subjects of neigh-
bouring Monarchs. The Zeal for Liberty, which
which was pretended by him in this, & the following Years,
did afterwards sufficiently appear to the World, to be no
other than a Cloak for his unmeasurable Ambition. He
at the same time when the Declaration was made against
the Protestants of France, Letters were intercepted (and
published) from him to Great Britain, in which he gave the
greatest Encouragement, and promise that he could
make in the War, which he contracted with the Duke of
York, then managed against the Duke of Orleans, and the
Roman Catholic Princes.

witness also the many open infractions of the Treaties, both of Aix la Chapelle and Nimeguen (whereof Your Majesty is the strongest Guaranty) upon the most frivolous Pretences imaginable, of which the most usual was that of Dependancies; an Invention set on foot on purpose to serve for a pretext of Rupture with all his Neighbors, unless they chose rather to satisfy his Endless Demands, by abandoning one Place after another, to his insatiable appetite of Empire, & for maintaining whereof, the two Chambers of Metz and Brissach were erected to find out and forge Titles, and to invent Equivocal Constructions for eluding the plain meaning of Treaties Concluded and sworn with the greatest Solemnity, and than which nothing can be more Sacred among Nations.

From hence it was also that Strasburg was so infamously surprized by the French King in a time of full Peace, and though great Conditions were Agreed and promised to the Inhabitants of that City, yet no sooner was he in Possession of it, but all Stipulations were forgotten, and that Ancient free City doth now groan under the same Yoke with the rest of that King's Subjects.

The building the Fort of Hunningen contrary to so many solemn Assurances given to the Switzes, and the Affair of Luxemburg are too well known to need a particular Deduction. In a word, the whole Series of the French Kings Actions for many Years last past has been so ordered, as if it were his intention not only to render his own people extremely miserable, by intolerable imposition of Taxes, to be employed in maintaining an incredible Number of Dragoons and other Soldiers, to be the instruments of his Cruelty upon such of them as refuse in all things to comply with his unjust Commands, but likewise to hold all the neighboring Powers in perpetual Alarm and Expence for the maintaining of Armies and Fleets, that they may be in a posture to defend themselves against the Invader of their common safety and Liberties.

Examples of this sort might be innumerable, but his Invasion of Flanders and Holland since the last Truce of 1684. and the Outrages committed upon the Empire by attacking the Fort of Philipsburg, without any Declaration of War at the same time that his Imperial Majesty was employing all his Forces against the common Enemy of the Christian Faith, and his Walling the Palatinate with fire and sword and murdering an infinite number of innocent Persons for no other Reasons, as himself has pub.

publickly declared, but because he thought the Elector Palatine faithful to the interest of the Empire, and an Obstacle to the compassing his ambitious Designs, are sufficient Instances of this.

To these we cannot, but with a particular Resentment add the injuries done to your Majesty in the most unjust and violent seizing of your Principality of Orange, and the utmost Insolencies committed on the Persons of your Majesties Subjects there; and how to facilitate his Conquests upon his Neighbour Princes, he engaged the Turks in a war against Christendom at the same time.

And as if violating of Treaties, and ravaging the Countries of his Neighbours States were not sufficient means of advancing his exorbitant Power and Greatness, he has constantly had recourse to the vilest and meanest Arts, for the Ruine of those, whom he had taken upon him to subdue to his Will and power, insinuating himself by his Embassies under the sacred Name and Character of Publick Ministers, into those who were intrusted in the Government of Kingdoms and States, suborning them by Gifts and pensions, to the selling their Masters and betraying their Trusts, and descending even to Intrigues by Women, who were sent or married into the Countries of other potent Princes, to lie as Snakes in their Bosoms to eat out of their Bowels, or to instil that Poyson into them which might prove the Destruction of them and their Countries, of which Poland, Savoy and Spain, to mention no more at present, can give but too ample Testimonies.

The insolent Use he has made of his ill-gotten Greatness has been as Extravagant as the means of procuring it, for this the single Instance of Genoa may suffice; which without the least notice or any Ground of a quarrel whatsoever was bombarded by the French Fleet, and the Doge and four Principal Senators of that Free State constrained in person to humble themselves at that Monarchs Feet, which in the Style of France was called Chastising Sovereigns for casting Umbrage upon his Greatness.

His Practices against England have been of the same nature, and by corrupt means he has constantly and with too much Success endeavoured to get such Power in the Court of England, in the time of King Charles the Second and the late King James, as might by degrees undermine the Government and true Interest of this flourishing Kingdom.

Another Art which he has used to weaken England, and subject it to his aspiring Designs, was never to admit an equal Balance of Trade, nor consent to any just Treaty or Settlement of Commerce, by which he promoted our Ruine at our own Charge.

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